

Rejection of Claims

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 11, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,788,508). Although Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejections, Applicants have amended the claims to expedite allowance of this application. Applicants reserve the right to refile the unamended claims in a continuation application. The Applicants have amended Claim 11 to incorporate features of Claim 12, which was indicated by the Examiner as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The Examiner stated: "Claims 12, 13 and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." Since the Applicants have included the limitations of allowable Claim 12 in Claim 11, Claim 11 is allowable.

Claims 13-15 are dependent claims, therefore their allowability directly follows from the allowability of independent Claim 11.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner indication of allowability of Claims 12, 13 and 16, if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base and any intervening claims. Applicants have canceled Claim 12. As previously discussed, Claim 11 incorporates the features of canceled Claim 12. Also, Claim 16 has been rewritten in independent form pursuant to the Examiner's suggestion. Accordingly, Applicants submit that amended Claim 16 is also in condition for allowance.

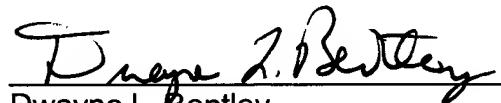
New Claims

Applicants have added new dependent Claims 27-34. The specification supports the addition of these new claims. (Specification, page 13, lines 15-27 and page 14, lines 5-27). Claims 27-34 are dependent on allowable Claim 11 so Claims 27-34 are also allowable. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider and allow the new claims.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that pending Claims 11,13-16 as amended and new Claims 27-34 are patentable. Therefore, in view of the above amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly requested. If for any reason, however, the Examiner feels that a telephone interview would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


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